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*See President / WH
on 9 March '67*

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

SUBJECT : Reports of Strategic Weapons in Cuba

1. A special CIA-DIA Team conducts a continuing review of all intelligence to determine whether strategic weapons are being reintroduced into Cuba. This team's most recent monthly report, dated 23 February 1967, reiterates our considered opinion that there are no strategic weapons or nuclear warheads in Cuba. We have seen no evidence since then to alter this conclusion.

2. Members of this team carefully scrutinize all reports alleging that Soviet strategic weapons are in Cuba.

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Our continuing, day-to-day review of information from all these sources fails to substantiate Mr. Paul Bethel's allegations before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee hearings on 7 March.

3. Mr. Bethel periodically raises charges similar to those he made on 7 March either in public statements or in his principal vehicle for catching the public eye, the "Latin American Report," a newsletter sponsored by the Citizens Committee for a Free Cuba. He often couches his claims in broad general terms that defy authentication. When he does mention specifics which can be checked, he has been found to have a record for inaccuracy.

4. In his 7 March testimony, Mr. Bethel claimed that the USSR left many of its strategic missiles in Cuba after the 1962 crisis and indeed has even sent

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were into Cuba. He identified his sources of information as "scores of eyewitnesses" (refugees) which he considers "entirely reliable." The removal of Soviet missiles in late 1962 was carefully monitored by US naval and air units and it was judged that all strategic missiles had been taken back to the Soviet Union. Close

surveillance of Cuba itself since that time has failed to produce any evidence that such weapons have been reintroduced.

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5. The US intelligence community has just reviewed the question of strategic weapons in Cuba. The United States Intelligence Board approved NIE 85-67 "Key Issues and Prospects for Castro's Cuba" on 2 March which states in paragraph 15:

"We think it highly unlikely that the USSR will attempt to reintroduce strategic missiles into Cuba.

We recognize that the Soviets have the technical capability clandestinely to reintroduce the components of a strategic weapon system. But the build-up of strategic forces in the USSR in recent years would make the installation of strategic weapons in Cuba of less significance to the Soviet strategic posture than in 1962. In any event, we believe that the risk of another grave confrontation with the US would be unacceptable to the Soviets."

8. The joint CIA-DIA Team will meet again later in March for the formal session to review the day-by-day coverage of intelligence on Cuba and issue its monthly report.

Richard Helms
Director

Concur:

EDWARD W. PROCTOR
Acting Deputy Director for Intelligence

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